

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 KATHMA 00926 221051Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----114877 221054Z /15
P 220950Z FEB 78
FM AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1132
INFO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI PRIORITY

S E C R E T KATHMANDU 0926

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SHUM, PINT, NP
SUBJECT: RELEASE OF B. P. KOIRALA

1. I WAS CONVOKED BY PRIME MINISTER TODAY,
FEBRUARY 22, FOR MEETING WHICH LASTED ABOUT 20 MINUTES.
PURPOSE OF MEETING WHICH HAD NOT BEEN CONVEYED TO ME
IN ADVANCE WAS TO INFORM ME ABOUT HMG'S PLANS FOR
B.P. KOIRALA'S FUTURE.

2. PRIME MINISTER SAID KING HAD INSTRUCTED HIM TO ASK
ME TO INFORM PRESIDENT CARTER MOST CONFIDENTIALLY THAT
IN RESPONSE TO PRESIDENT'S RECENT FRIENDLY LETTER (OF JAN 30, 1978)
WHICH CONTAINED EXPRESSION OF INTEREST IN B.P. 'S HEALTH,
KING HAD DECIDED QUOTE TO CONSIDER MATTER SYMPATHETICALLY
ON HUMANITARIAN GROUNDS UNQUOTE. IN RESPONSE TO MY
REQUEST FOR CLARIFICATION OF WHAT THIS MEANT
EXACTLY. PRIME MINISTER SAID THAT KOIRALA WOULD
BE RELEASED "VERY SOON" AND WOULD BE FREE TO
LEAVE COUNTRY FOR FURTHER MEDICAL TREATMENT.

3. COMMENT. AS REPORTED IN KATHMANDU 899, B.P.
KOIRALA'S TRIAL IS CURRENTLY UNDERWAY AND ACCORDING
TO PRESENT SCHEDULE IS DUE TO BE COMPLETED

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FEBRUARY 27. KOIRALA'S RELEASE FOR FURTHER MEDICAL
TREATMENT WILL PRESUMABLY TAKE PLACE SHORTLY
THEREAFTER REGARDLESS OF OUTCOME OF TRIAL.
END COMMENT.

4. PRIME MINISTER WENT ON TO IMPLY THAT IN
CONTRAST TO LAST SUMMER WHEN GON COVERED B.P.'S

MEDICAL EXPENSES INCURRED IN US, THIS WOULD NOT REPEAT NOT BE THE CASE THIS TIME. HE SAID THAT SINCE B.P. HAD SO MANY FRIENDS ABROAD THEY WOULD UNDOUBTEDLY RALLY AROUND TO TAKE CARE OF HIS MEDICAL BILLS.

5. I SAID I APPRECIATED THIS PRIVATE MESSAGE WHICH I WOULD OF COURSE CONVEY TO WASHINGTON. I ADDED THAT USG AND B.P.'S AMERICAN FRIENDS WOULD WARMLY WELCOME THIS EXPRESSION OF KING'S HUMANITARIAN CONCERN FOR B.P.'S HEALTH AND WELFARE.
HECK

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 22 feb 1978
Decaption Date: 20 Mar 2014
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978KATHMA00926
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: DG ALTERED
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780079-0948
Format: TEL
From: KATHMANDU
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780229/aaaaayfu.tel
Line Count: 75
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 27272bd2-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3524560
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: RELEASE OF B. P. KOIRALA
TAGS: SHUM, PINT, NP, (KOIRALA, B P)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/27272bd2-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014